



## 'Review of Simon Olding's "The Etchings of Bernard Leach" (2010)'

McBrinn, J. (2011). 'Review of Simon Olding's "The Etchings of Bernard Leach" (2010)'. *Ceramics Ireland*, 27, 33.

[Link to publication record in Ulster University Research Portal](#)

**Published in:**  
Ceramics Ireland

**Publication Status:**  
Published (in print/issue): 01/01/2011

**Document Version**  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

### **General rights**

Copyright for the publications made accessible via Ulster University's Research Portal is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

### **Take down policy**

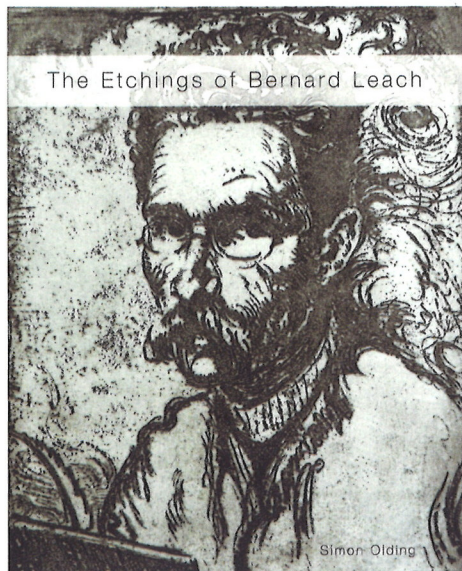
The Research Portal is Ulster University's institutional repository that provides access to Ulster's research outputs. Every effort has been made to ensure that content in the Research Portal does not infringe any person's rights, or applicable UK laws. If you discover content in the Research Portal that you believe breaches copyright or violates any law, please contact [pure-support@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:pure-support@ulster.ac.uk).

## The Etchings of Bernard Leach

### Simon Olding

ISBN 978-0-9554374-8-9

Crafts Study Centre, Farnham, Surrey, UK, 2010,  
135 pp, pk



Reviewed by Dr. Joseph McBrinn  
University of Ulster

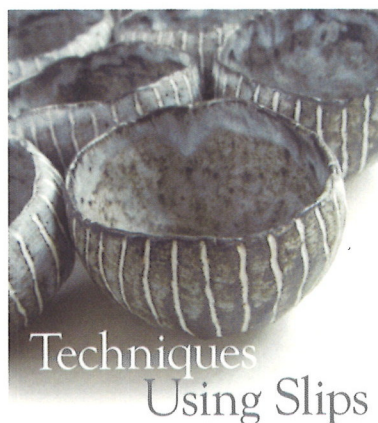
In 1920, when Bernard Leach returned to England from Japan, after over a decade, as well as a collection of ceramics, he also brought a printing press and a bundle of etchings. Although Leach seems to have continued producing etchings after settling back in England, they remain one of the least known aspects of his oeuvre. A recent exhibition at the Crafts Study Centre, in Farnham, England, brought together nearly all of the known etchings by Bernard Leach for the first time. Curated by Simon Olding, who authored the beautiful accompanying catalogue, the idea of the exhibition was to show that between the time Leach spent at the Slade School of Art, under Henry Tonks, and at the London School of Art, under Frank Brangwyn, to his return from Japan in 1920 (he had gone there in 1909) he 'worked prolifically in the medium'. On the cover of Olding's catalogue is a striking self-portrait by Leach from 1914, which gives an immediate sense of the dreamy expressionist line and soft ground tonalities in his etchings. Leach had gone to Japan with the rather brash idea of earning his living as a teacher of etching. However, his work in its Eastern context seemed rather Western, 'predictable and unexceptional' and none of the Japanese intelligentsia circles into which he fell were converted, although friends such as Koun Takamura, Ryusei Kishida, Soetsu Yanagi and later Soji Hamada all voiced admiration for his etchings. The significance of these etchings cannot be underestimated, neither can the fact that Leach came to ceramics, as Olding points out, through fine art.

## Techniques using Slips

### John Mathieson

ISBN 978-1-4081-0626-6

www.acblack.com



John Mathieson

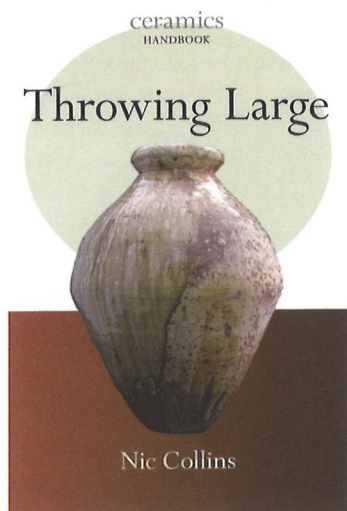
Slip is liquid clay which can be used for decoration on its own or covered in glaze. This book examines the many techniques of using slips such as brushing, dipping, trailing and sgraffito, amongst others, and uses contemporary potters' work as illustrations. It explains how to make up slips and engobes, as well as ways of using them at different temperatures, both with and without glazes. This book is illustrated with fascinating images of working potters in action, showing their own personal styles and how they have adapted traditional methods to suit their work today in a modern context. As well as examples of techniques, there are many images of beautiful finished pieces to show what can be achieved.

## Throwing large

### Nic Collins

ISBN 978-1-4081-1628-9

www.acblack.com



Throwing large work is a challenging area and takes a different approach to throwing normal ware. This book looks at throwing purely from the perspective

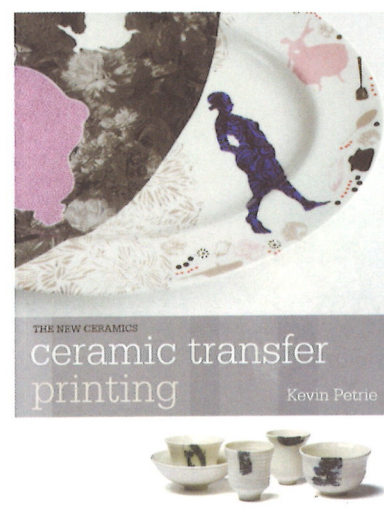
of making very large work. It assumes the reader can already throw, but different techniques are needed when making large work because of all the added problems – it can buckle during making, collapse if not moved to the kiln safely and warp in the firing. Not to mention that the techniques needed to physically throw much larger work are very different. This book looks at all of these issues, offering clear guidance on how to make work successfully, covering the various techniques used, such as throwing on coils and throwing in sections, or blow-torching work before continuing to throw, as well as how to avoid disastrous pitfalls. The book offers expert guidance, giving you all you need to ensure your work develops successfully as you make larger pieces.

## Ceramics transfer printing

### Kevin Petrie

ISBN: 978-1-4081-1328-8

www.acblack.com



Ceramic transfers and decals offer exciting creative potential for studio based artists or designer makers. A ceramic transfer allows pictures, patterns or text to be transferred onto ceramic forms – 2D and 3D. This added layer of meaning might have artistic or commercial ends. Importantly, print can achieve distinct aesthetic effects on ceramics that are not possible by using other decorative methods such as hand painting.

Drawing on over twenty years of experience, Kevin Petrie offers a focused analysis of the potential of ceramic transfer printing as a creative medium. He traces the history of the subject and explains the distinctive visual qualities of a range of transfer printing methods. The specific materials and techniques for making versatile screenprinted ceramic transfers are explained from the 'low-tech' to the more sophisticated. Other approaches by artist researchers are also brought together and recent developments with digital transfers appraised. A range of case studies shows the potential and diversity of approach in this area, which extends beyond ceramics to include enamel on metal and glass.